

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Ninth Middlesex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Ninth Middlesex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 0.6% (762) reside in the Ninth Middlesex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (144) of Ninth Middlesex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 76.1% of admissions from the Ninth Middlesex Representative District were male and 23.8% were female.
- Over 60.9% of admissions were between the ages of 30-49.
- 81.6% of admissions were white non-Latino, 7.2% were black non-Latino, 8.1% were Latino, 0.8% were Asians, and 2.2% were other racial categories.
- 65.8% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 12.0% were married, and 15.5% reported not to be married now.
- 20.3% of admissions had less than high school education, 54.4% completed high school, and 25.2% had more than high school education.
- 35.5% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 19.8% of those admitted were homeless.
- 10.2% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Ninth Middlesex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Ninth Middlesex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	941	836	269	283	171	176	130
FY '96	891	777	292	283	174	458	119
FY '97	963	867	270	276	164	184	139
FY '98	845	728	222	224	106	191	148
FY '99	819	698	190	196	109	238	187
FY '00	822	683	213	174	100	216	169
FY '01	762	627	217	173	91	168	124

- Since FY 1995, residents of Ninth Middlesex Representative District reported a decrease across all the drug categories.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting alcohol use decreased by 25%, marijuana by 19%, cocaine by 38%, crack by 46%, and heroin use by 4%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Ninth Middlesex Representative District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	64.7 %	17.8%	7.4%	4.8%	1.4%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While heroin and crack as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was lower than the State average, alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine was higher within your District.